

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 7, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. DURKEE submitted the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Catharine Shepherd, widow of George Shepherd, praying for a pension, having had the same under consideration, beg leave to report:*

That the petitioner asserts she is the widow of George Shepherd, who served in the revolutionary war, under Captain Abram Speer, for a period of more than six months, and therefore prays a pension for this service.

As no record proof of service is furnished from the rolls, her claim rests entirely upon parol testimony, to-wit: the affidavits of Jacob Outwater, who says that he was frequently at the American camp during the revolution, and often met George Shepherd at that place during the years 1779 and 1780, and that this continued for one or two years; certainly one year. Outwater did not himself serve.

Thomas Jeroleman testifies that he is now seventy-six years of age; that he has seen the rolls of Captain Speer, and upon them was the name of George Shepherd, from 1779 to the close of the war, and was honorably discharged.

It is not probable that any such roll ever existed; for there was no such continuous service of the New Jersey militia; and Captain Speer, in his application for a pension, testifies that he did not himself serve more than five months in any year, from 1779 to 1783, and that his service in 1780 was only two months. The militia service of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and several other States, was for a period of two months only, when called out, and not continuous.

The claim of the petitioner for a pension has frequently been disallowed at the Pension Bureau, and the decision twice affirmed by the Secretary of the Interior, for the reason that six months' service had not been proved.

Your committee therefore recommend that the prayer of the petitioner be denied.

